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THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE

Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada ©

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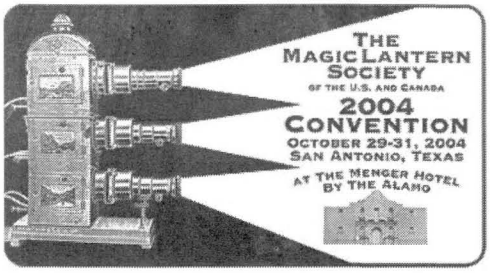
OCTOBER CONVENTION NEARS

By Jack Judson


THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY
OF THE U.S. AND CANADA
2004 CONVENTION
OCTOBER 29-31, 2004
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
AT THE MENGER HOTEL BY THE ALAMO

The exciting 11th Convention of the Magic Lantern Society will take place in San Antonio, Texas October 29th through 31st at the Menger Hotel.

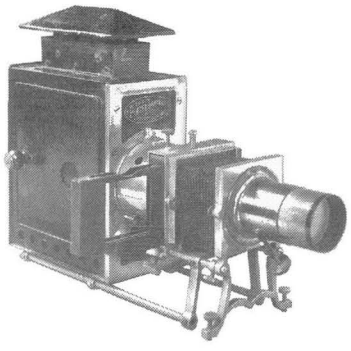
A block of rooms has been set aside for the attendees, and it is vital that you reserve early. We have the great rate of $85.00 U.S., plus tax, for a lovely room in this terrific hotel. To make reservations, please call toll-free 1-800-345-9285 and furnish the name of the Society and Booking #7470. The rates are for one or two people in a room. Reserve by September 20 to guarantee the rate shown.

There is a Breakfast Buffet available in a truly wonderful old dining room, beginning at 6:00 A.M., and a Lunch Buffet as well. There are also thirty or more restaurants within about three blocks of the hotel to suit just about any appetite and food choice. Breakfast and lunch are on your own, but the morning and afternoon breaks will include light refreshments.

Arrival should be on Thursday, October 28th, so that we can have an evening of visiting and togetherness before the meetings start the following morning.

We hope to have an interesting, fun and informative program, with a couple of side trips for dinner—surprise—one of them to a museum of your kind of interest where the evening transportation, food and drink is included. Saturday evening will feature a special dinner on the river.

I am delighted to host, with the Society this, the second, Convention here in San Antonio. All in all it promises to be a wonderful time to visit, see and learn, with old and new friends.



Nominations for Society Officers have been mailed to you. Please vote and return ballots to Past president, Bob Hall. Ballots will be counted and winners announced at the Fall Convention.

INSIDE

- President's Message
- Some Small American Lanterns
- Slide Reading Library
- Scanning Lantern Slides
- Yahoo Magic Lantern Message Board

FREE SLIDES!

The editors will send ten Incredibly Boring Slides (IBS) to any member who sends us a photo (Internet or postal mail) of their favorite slide for future publication in the *Gazette*. Along with this, please include some or all of the following information: the subject matter of the slide, what it is, where did you get it, why do you like it, how do you use it, etc.

The IBSs you receive may be cleaned to use as cover slides, may be used in a show to bore your "friends," may be used as clay pigeons, or may be sent as a gift to someone you don't like.

SOME SMALL AMERICAN LANTERNS

The Optical Magic Lantern Journal and Photographic Enlarger

September 1890

At a lecture at the Camera Club, by Mr. Andrew Pringle, a few months ago, he alluded to some of the lanterns used nowadays as "cottages," and at the same time exhibited a small compact lantern he had lately made, which folded up into a box one foot square. Certainly the element of handiness is to be considered when one is desirous that a lantern outfit can be contained in a convenient hand package, and there are certainly many reasons in support of this.

Our American cousins have come to the conclusion that many of the lanterns in use were considerably larger and more bulky than there was any necessity, and several firms have been striving towards the reduction of size and consequently weight. The effects thus far appear to be devoted to single lanterns, for both bi-unials and triples must necessarily occupy considerable dimensions.

We have been enabled, through the kindness of the firms mentioned, to give our readers an idea of some of the leading styles of single lanterns for both oil and limelight as employed in the United States.

Ive's Patent Folding Portable Lantern, of which C.T. Milligan, of Philadelphia, United States, is the maker, is of striking appearance, there being no unutilized space. As rigged up for use, it presents the appearance of fig. 1. The woodwork is of polished mahogany; the body, which contains the light and to which the condensers are attached, is of Russian iron, the door being in the rear; whilst due provision is made for ventilation.

The mountings are of polished brass, and the lantern itself is adapted for either oil or limelight. When the lantern is to be dismantled and packed up, the parts are liberated by a series of clips, and placed inside of the mahogany box, which measures 8-1/2 in. long, 6 in. wide, and 6-1/2 in. deep; the whole when packed forms a very convenient package, as it weighs only in the vicinity of 8lb. It is certainly very handy to be able to pick up a package of small weight and size containing the complete lantern.

An oil lantern in which all superfluous parts are dispenses with, is made by the Elliot-Cylmer Co., N.Y. This style (Fig. 2) they say has been designed to meet the wants of those amateur photographers who wish a simple and practical lantern for home use. The framework is mahogany, and the cone and chimney of Russian iron, and the fittings of brass. The condenser is 4-1/4 in. in diameter.

This lantern, in addition to exhibition work, is fitted for receiving negatives for use for making bromide enlargements. The whole packs into a box measuring 8 in. by 14 in. by 12 in.

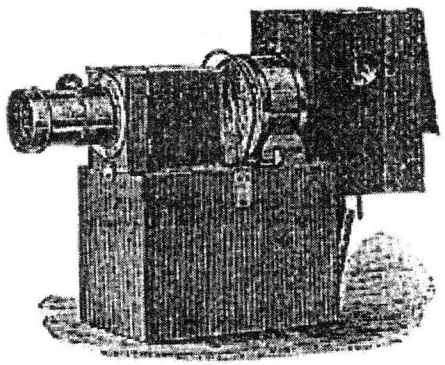


Figure 1

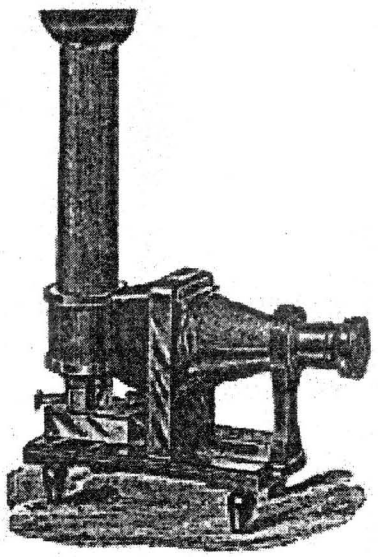


Figure 2

Messrs. J. B. Colt and Co., New York City, N.Y. make a specialty of Parabolon lanterns, both for oil and limelight. In Fig. 3 (not shown in article), which is a skeleton type, the oil is contained in a reservoir, the lowest part of which is lower than the part of the round wick to which the oil is fed; and the handles for adjusting the wick are made of hard rubber; which remains cool, although adjacent parts may become hot. The lantern stand is 19 in. long by 8 in. wide, and contains three supports upon which can be adjusted the lamp, condenser, and objective. A spun brass hood connects the lamp and the condenser.

The Gazette
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www.magiclanternsociety.org

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Regular member $25
Institutional Member $25
Commercial Member $25

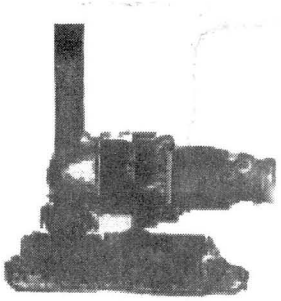

Figure 4

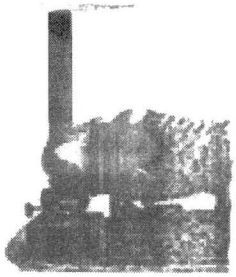

Figure 5

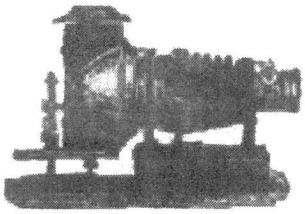

Figure 6

Two other forms (Figs. 4 and 5), which can be used for the purpose of making enlargements, have the space between the condenser and lens enclosed. The negative from which an enlargement is to be made may be secured in the desired position by a lever shown in the cuts.

Limelight can also be used in the Parabolon lanterns, and as the illuminating chamber is detachable, it is only necessary to substitute one back for the other. This chamber (Fig. 6) is supplied with both vertical and lateral motions, so that it can readily be adjusted to the condenser.

Although Messrs. Colt assure us that the parabola is the bet form of reflector for lanterns, we fail to see how they overcome the confusion which will be caused by two sets of rays, one of which will be from the direct light, whilst the other will be from the reflector.

A lantern balanced on a swivel joint has been introduced by Charles Besseler of New York City. The body consists of a tube of Russian iron 4-3/4 in. diameter, with hinged doors both at side and back. A well is provided for allowing the jet to be sunk a sufficient distance, and the lens is mounted to the end of a metal cone.

As the centre of gravity lies immediately behind the condenser, the lantern is here secured by a single upright, which is attached to a stand. By means of the swivel joint this lantern can readily be turned or tilted as required.

The foregoing remarks and illustrations will give our readers an introduction to some shapes of single lanterns with which they have been previously unacquainted, and on some other occasion we hope to give a few particulars on the styles of bi-unials in use in America.

October.

Correspondence.

Sir, In the September issue of your valuable journal we notice an article headed, "Some Small American Lanterns," but find no mention of our make, although several of the lanterns described bear a striking similarity to our "New Departure" styles of instruments as described and illustrated in our catalogue, a copy of which we send you by mail this day.

We claim to have led the way in the manufacture of the most compact forms of lanterns, and send you a copy of our Bulletin No. 1, issued in 1886, at which time we introduced our New York model magic lantern, with oil light, and which was made possible by our patent bi-unial lamp, as it allowed us to dispense with the bulky forms of case previously required to enclose the light; and the model dissolving view apparatus, described on pages 32 and 36 of our catalogue, were the pioneers of small compact magic lanterns, and we therefore gave this style of instrument the name of "New Departure." The advantage of these new forms led to our having many imitators.

Our next addition was the oxy-hydrogen light, from which it was but a step to the double Metropolitan, and double and triple International Stereopticons, which we introduced in 1887.

Later, in 1889, and to meet the demand for a cheaper form of instrument, we brought out our Popular lantern.

These "New Departure" styles of instruments have the advantages of being strong, compact, light in weight, neat in appearance, simple in construction, easy to operate, furnished with the best of lenses and all accessories, and render magnificent results.

You will note that one of the lanterns in the article shows our patent bi-unial lamp, as you will see by comparing it with page 46 of catalogue, which lamp being a patented article, the manufacturers of the lantern illustrated purchase of us.

We would also add that we were the first to adapt and introduce the bellows collapsible extension front, applying same to our Universal Stereopticon in 1876, but, unfortunately, we did not patent this application, and it is now extensively used. We cannot but believe that the author of the article must have been ignorant of these facts, and we, therefore, take pleasure in giving this information, which in justice to ourselves we trust you will notice.

Craving your pardon for trespassing so much on your valuable time. We are, yours truly, New York. September 10, 1890. T.H. McAllister

Ed. Note - The editors apologize for having lost the name of who submitted this article. Was it you?

MAGIC LANTER SOCITY OF U.S. & CANADA START SLIDE READING LIBRARY

The following slide readings are in the personal collection of member Rick Martyna. As we send him readings from our own collection he will build a library of readings available to all members of the Society. Any readings you send must be copies only and mailed to Rick Martyna, 401 Wyllis St., Oil City, PA16301.inericks@csonline.net. The cost for a copy of a reading you need, will be $1 for script up to 8 pages and 25¢ per page beyond that. Mailing a hard copy will be plus postage. Prices only good for paid up members. Readings can most easily be sent electronically. Rick is to be commended a thousand fold for volunteering to do this time consuming task.

Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Bluebeard,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p, e, t
Bob the Fireman,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Boy Scouts, The,	Primus, Chapter 1,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Boy Scouts, The,	Primus, Chapter 2,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Boy Scouts, The,	Primus, Chapter 3,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Brave Deeds,	Primus,	8 slides	
Buy Your Own Cherries,	Unknown,	10 slides,	o,p,e,t
Canadian Life—Past & Present,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Cash Three,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Caudle's Curtain Lectures,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,e,t
Children's Life of Christ, Chapter 1,	Primus,	8 slides,	o
Children's Life of Christ, Chapter 2,	Primus,	8 slides,	o
Children's Life of Christ, Chapter 3,	Primus,	8 slides,	o
Cinderella,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Comical Cats and Dogs,	Primus,	8 slides,	p
Conquest of Air, The, Chapter 1,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Conquest of Air, The, Chapter 2,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Conquest of Air, The, Chapter 3,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight, Poem,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Death & Burial of Cock Robin, The, Poem,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,p,e,t
Dick Wittington and His Cat,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Dogs and Monks of St. Bernard,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Dore' Bible, The, Chapter 1,	Primus,	8 slides,	o
Dore' Bible, The, Chapter 2,	Primus,	8 slides,	o
Dore' Bible, The, Chapter 3,	Primus,	8 slides,	o
Dwarf Long Nose, The,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Experiments, Uses for a TANK slide,	Unknown,	#slides n/a,	p
Gulliver's Travels, Chapter 1,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Gulliver's Travels, Chapter 2,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Heroes of the Lifeboat,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p
Hostile Neighbours (sic), Poem,	Unknown,	12 slides,	p
House That Jack Built, The, Poem,	Primus,	8 slides,	p
Jack and the Bean Stalk,	Unknown,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Jack the Giant Killer,	Unknown,	12 slides,	p
Jane Conquest, Poem,	York,	16 slides,	p
Life on Board an Ocean Palace,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
London Views, Series 1,	Primus,	8 slides,	p
London Views, Series 2,	Primus,	8 slides,	p
London Views,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p
Mischievous Tommy,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t

Formats:

o = original copy
p = photocopy
e = e-mail (Word 97 or higher)
t = transcribed to 15 pt. type from original, ready for reading. One slide per page, or two pages, depending on length.

Mr. O'Toole's Adventures with his Umbrella,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,p,e,t
On the Banks of the Nile,	Theobald,	12 slides,	o,p,e,t
Our Firemen,	Primus,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Our Lifeboat Men,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Peter Pan, The Story of, Chapter 1,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Peter Pan, The Story of, Chapter 2,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Peter Pan, The Story of, Chapter 3,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Phantom Ship, the,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Ringing of the Bell, The,	Theobald(?),	12 slides,	p,e,t
Robin Hood,	Primus,	8 slides,	p,e,t
Robinson Crusoe,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,p,e,t
Rob the Fireman: See Bob the Fireman			
Santa Clause and His Visits on Christmas Eve,	Theobald, 1	2 slides,	p,e,t
Sinbad the Sailor,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,p,e,t
Sinbad the Sailor,	Unknown,	12 slides,	p
Story of Peter Pan, The, See: Peter Pan, The Story of; 3 Chapters			
Swiss Family Robinson, The,	Theobald,	12 slides,	p,e,t
Tale of the Three Bears, The,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,p,e,t
Tiger and the Tub, The,	Theobald(?),	12 slides,	p
Uncle Tom's Cabin, Chapter 1,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,p,e,t
Uncle Tom's Cabin, Chapter 2,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,p,e,t
Uncle Tom's Cabin, Chapter 3,	Primus,	8 slides,	o,p,e,t

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

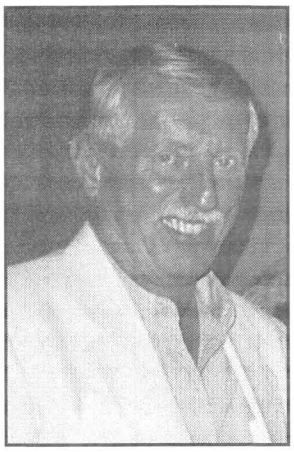
I have been writing this column for over four years now. Tempting as it is, I hesitate to go back four years and start reruns. Maybe it's permissible to go back one more issue and plagiarize Bob Hall's last letter as president. He stated that 'being President of the Society is a piece of cake and I will miss it'. Let's remember that statement when the next election rolls around.

My term of office began at the convention in Hollywood ably hosted by Jere Guldin and Randy Haberkamp. That was truly a fun event as we celebrated the magic lantern in the home of the movies. Two years later we returned to Rochester, New York, hosted by Ed Lennert. Those who attended have many fond memories of the shows, the Eastman House Museum, the dinner cruise and reminiscing with many old and new friends. October will mark the return to San Antonio for our eleventh convention.
Our genial host, Jack Judson, states this one will top them all. While shows and entertainment are enjoyable, the real benefit we all derive from the convention is friendship renewal.

As I leave office I must thank those who have made the job easy and enjoyable. My fellow officers have kept me on the straight and narrow pathway and have been largely responsible for sustaining the Society. My profound thanks to Homer Peabody for his support over many years and to Sharon Koch for her outstanding performance in carrying out the duties of Secretary/Treasurer.

Thanks must also go to those who create the Magic Lantern Gazette our primary communication tool. Bob and Sue Hall have served as editors of the Gazette longer than anyone else has in the world. They have consistently produced a quality publication, on time, and with a variety of entertaining and educational articles. Of course the production would not be possible except for the magic fingers of Larry Cederblom doing all the formatting and layout. I thank them all for their dedication to the Society

And lastly I would like to thank the membership for their support. It has been an honor to be associated with such a group of knowledgeable collectors who are truly concerned about preserving history. When questions come to me that are better answered by others, I know that there are people out there who have the answers and I thank you for taking on that task.



Speaking of questions; some of the recent inquiries that have been received include;
Gale Wollenberg had some suggestions to Lindsay regarding last issues 'Helpful Hints'.
A TV producer for the History Channel is doing a documentary entitled "Secret Missions of the Civil War" and was looking for an old magic lantern to use in his production. Jack and Gale responded to him. A lady from Los Angeles was looking for a projector collector interested in buying her boss's antique projectors and slides. I forwarded this to the membership.
A college teacher in Louisiana wanted to rent a lantern for his Film History course. Steve Barnes responded to him.
A new collector has just bought his first lantern, an 'EP'. He has since discovered it is missing the chimney and the 'EP' emblem. (Apparently he was told "some have it and some don't"). His question is "are there any dealers who might have spare parts?"

And finally, word has come in that the David Evans family is about to jump across the ocean and become Canadians. We welcome them to North America.

Hope to see you all in San Antonio in October. May your lantern shine brightly throughout the year.

IN PRAISE OF CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS

By M. Lindsay Lambert

According to the most recent research, the Dutch scientist Christiaan Huygens (1629-1695) is believed to be the most likely originator of the magic lantern. I wonder how many of us have looked him up to see what else he may have accomplished. I decided to do so, and learned that he is a very important fellow indeed.

Huygens was born in the Hague, the son of a wealthy and distinguished diplomat and poet. He developed an interest in the sciences through the influence of René Descartes, a frequent visitor to the household, and became a noted astronomer, physicist, and mathematician.

He was particularly attracted to astronomy, and, in 1655, discovered a new method of grinding lenses, which allowed him to construct a telescope of extremely high resolving power. This enabled him to observe hitherto unseen details of the sky. He became the first person to see the rings and at least one moon of Saturn, and surface details of Mars.

In his later years, Huygens proposed the concept of light being a wave, which vibrates in the direction of its motion. This is the basis of current theory. The earlier accepted view, postulated by Sir Isaac Newton, was that light consisted of a stream of luminous particles. (This would have been hard on one's lantern slides and lenses!)

Possibly his most important contribution, however, was his invention of the clock pendulum, which gave the world the first means of accurately measuring time.

Christiaan Huygen's name should be a household word. I can only conclude that it isn't, because so few people know how to pronounce it.

LETTER FROM MRS. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL
TO DR. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL, UNDATED

Internet Library of Congress
Web site
Submitted by Mick Koch

M.G.G.
1336 Nineteenth Street
Washington, D.C.
1891 (?)

My Dear Alec:

I am most too cross and tired for letter writing. I have about vowed that I will never, never again attend a lecture even when illustrated with magic lantern slides. I thought they never would come to them or get through with them, and that my chair was the most uncomfortable, hard, slippery, deceitful specimen of its tribe. How Grace stood it I don't know, I wiggled and wormed and squirmed for her anyway. Hope you appreciate the beauty of my adjectives, glad to say I have worked off some of my crossness that way—not all, for Mr. McCurdy thinks I have expended some on him. The lecture was Lieut. Peary's on Greenland, he is trying to get money enough by that lecture course to fit out another sledge trip to Greenland. His wife was in the box with us, she is young and quite pretty, and will accompany her husband to Greenland and will remain in the village while he goes off exploring. The lecture was very interesting, and the pictures must have been pretty and interesting because Mamma said they were, but I was too tired to enjoy them. Daisy went along and enjoyed the pictures which she explained to me very nicely.

I have been trying most unsuccessfully to send off my flower seed order today, the baby takes a good deal of time, and I have been called on to decide about association matters. I told you about the solid hour we spent at the printers yesterday while the Emancipation procession went marching by. The proofs came this evening and bear not the slightest trace of our hard work. I am tired and discouraged and have concluded to let well enough alone. The engraving proof came today, they left the P. and T. out of the monogram so it had to go back.

I put my warm flannels on again this morning, but Day says it was warm again in the afternoon, she is more of a thermometer than I.

Mr. McCurdy is cleaning up the study, I think it is a hint to me that he wants to go to bed and is only waiting for me to finish this letter to you and another to Elsie that he may mail them.

Mr. Gifford's letter came today. Oh if you had only not sold the Piper farm you might have transferred the sheep there for an entire change.

I love you very much and miss you,
Yours ever,
Mabel.

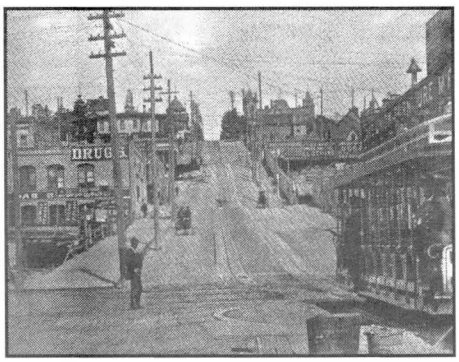
A PICTURE PUZZLE
By Paul Dorpat

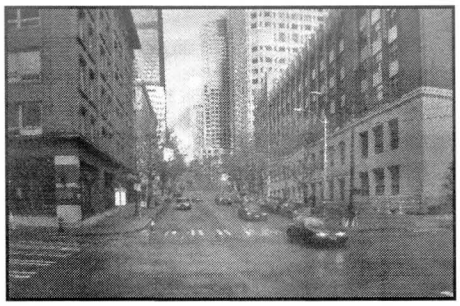
From the *Seattle Times,* March 2004
While revealing, this early 1890s look east up Madison Street from the trolley line's terminal turntable is also a puzzle. A friend found this image in the Kingston Museum at Kingston on the Thames, England. It is attributed to Kingston's most famous son, Eadweard Muybridge. The photographer-inventor returned to his hometown in 1895 after more than 40 years of mostly taking photographs in the American West and performing some of the earliest experiments in motion pictures.

The puzzle is this; As far as I have been able to determine, none of Muybridge's biographers has ever put him in Seattle. He was on Puget Sound in 1871 taking photos for the U.S. Lighthouse service, but that is at least 20 years before this lantern slide was recorded.

The best chance for having Muybridge here to take this photo would be in the spring of 1893, when he left the West Coast for the last time. He was heading to Chicago to show his "animal locomotion" pictures in his own "Zoopraxographical Hall" at the World Columbia Exposition. But the Expo opened in May, which presents another problem because this scene includes a street broadside advertising an event for July 18. Perhaps the Englishman was late getting to Chicago.

Another curiosity of this image is that it is the only identified Seattle scene included with the Muybridge bequest of his life's work to his hometown museum. The caption "Washington, Seattle, Madison Street Terraces" does fit Muybridge. San Francisco was the photographer's West Coast home base, so the Madison Street cable line would have interested him, especially this part of it climbing to First Hill. Locals claimed this was the second-steepest incline in the trolley industry; the steepest of all was in San Francisco.





ANNUAL M.L.S. TABLE AT THE CAMERA SHOW

By Larry Cederblom

Each year the Pacific N.W. Camera Club holds a large sale with dealers and buyers attending from all over the world. They "comp" a table for advertising and information only, to the National Stereoscopic Association and to the U.S. & Canada M.L.S. Northwest Corner members cover the M.L.S. table and bring a mini-display each year plus information on the Society. This year the following sheet was handed out:

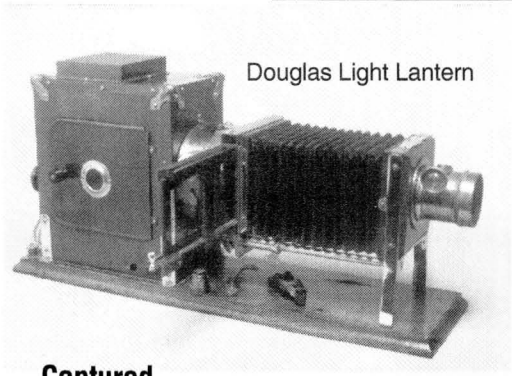
Can you help us?

Document the history and use of the Magic Lantern in the Northwest.

We are looking for information:
Anything about Magic Lanterns in the Northwest
Your personal experience with the Magic Lantern

Contact: Larry Cederblom,
E-mail designeric@comcast.net
or phone 253-952-9370

WANTED
Information leading to the history of the Magic Lantern usage in the northwest.
CAN YOU HELP US?
Document the history and use of the Magic Lantern in the Northwest.
We are looking for information:



Douglas Light Lantern

Captured

ONE

Douglas Light Company, located at First and Virginia in Seattle. Douglas Light Company was founded in1940 by three brothers. Besides providing electrical supplies and gas fixtures to contractors, they also produced lanterns and slides starting in 1908.

TWO

Advertising lantern slides, for Gonnason's Garage of Kent, were used in the local Kent theater. "Gonnason Battery Service" started on the NW corner of Central and Titus in 1923. The business was later expanded to include general automotive repair.

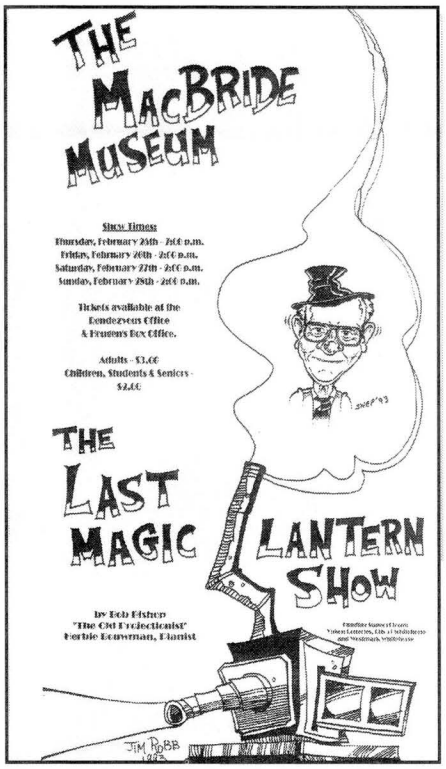
THREE

A box of advertising slides were found in the attic of the Rose Theatre, Port Townsend during the restoration. Some were shown during the ceremony of re-opening of the theatre.

THE ART OF JIM ROBB

From White Horse, Yukon Territory, Canada

Front of card in which the editors received the posters.


THE MACBRIDE MUSEUM
Show Times:
Thursday, February 25th - 2:00 p.m.
Friday, February 26th - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 27th - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 28th - 2:00 p.m.
Tickets available at the Rendezvous Office & Theatre's Box Office.
Adults - $3.00
Children, Students & Seniors - $2.00
THE LAST MAGIC LANTERN SHOW
by Bob Bishop
"The Old Projectionist"
Derbie Beauvman, Pianist
JIM ROBB

Poster advertising 1989 show done by Bob and Carm Bishop. Jim believes he dated the poster wrong.

Photo showing the outside of the MacBride Museum in White Horse. On the left is Jim Robb and in the middle, Bob Bishop.

THE MACBRIDE MUSEUM PRESENTS THE LAST MAGIC LANTERN SHOW

Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous

The MacBride Museum, with assistance from Lotteries Yukon, the Taku Hotel, Air B.C., the Old Log Church Museum and Jim Robb, is providing one of the most unique events of this special 25th Anniversary Celebration.

The museum has invited Robert Bishop, who bills himself as the Old Projectionist, to come to Whitehorse from Seattle, to give three Magic Lantern shows during Rendezvous week.

continued page 10

The Art of Jim Robb continued

Accompanied by a pianist, Mr. Bishop will transport the audience back to a time before movies and television. You will be taken back to an era when many people traveled no further than the next town and the Magic of the Lantern gave them glimpses of far off exotic places, such as Alaska and the Yukon.

Mr. Bishop has been giving lantern shows since those early days. This is the real thing, folks. You will probably never get another chance to share in the Magic as practiced by one of the original showmen.

Mr. Bishop's phenomenal collection of hundreds of glass lantern slides will be supplemented with some from the collection of the Old Log Church Museum. This will be a wonderful family event.

The MacBride Museum presents The Last Magic Lantern Show

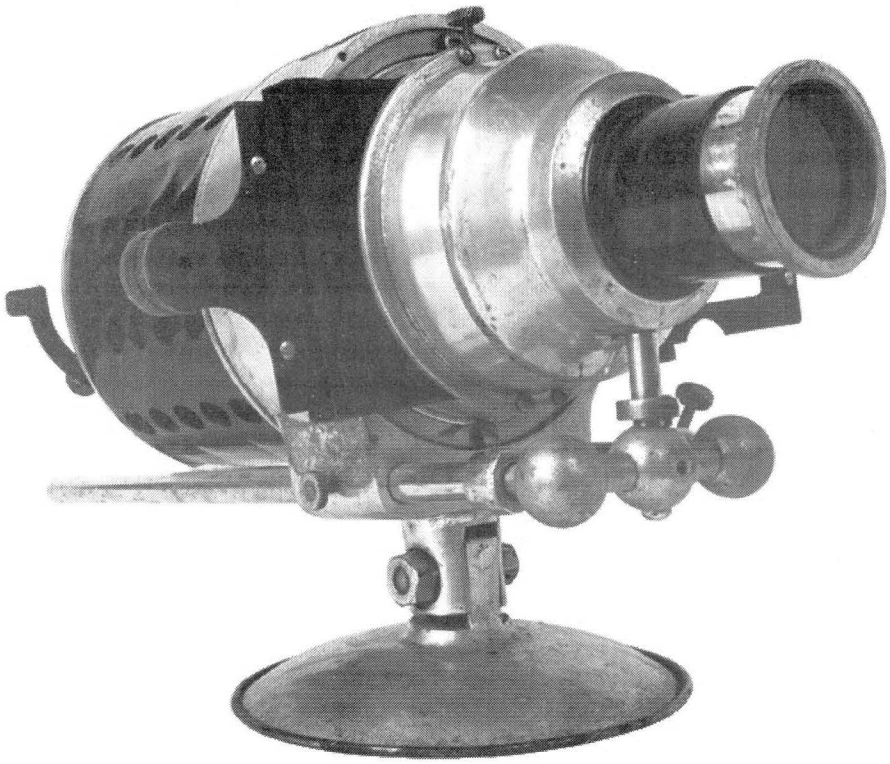
The MacBride Museum, with assistance from Laserlex Yukon, the Yuko Motel, Air B.C., the Old Log Church Museum and Jim Robb, is providing one of the most unique events of this special 25th Anniversary Celebration. The museum has invited Robert Bishop, who bills himself as the Old Professional, to come to Whitehorse from Seattle, to give 3 Magic Lantern shows during Rendezvous weeks.

Accompanied by a pianist, Mr. Bishop will transport the audience back to a time before movies and television. You will be taken back to an era when many people traveled no further than the next town and the Magic of the Lantern gave them glimpses of far off exotic places, such as Alaska and the Yukon.

Mr. Bishop has been giving lantern shows since those early days. This is the real thing, folks. You will probably never get another chance to share in the Magic as practiced by one of the original showmen.

Mr. Bishop's phenomenal collection of hundreds of glass lantern slides will be supplemented with some from the collection of the Old Log Church Museum. This will be a wonderful family event. The MacBride Museum will be open and admission is free from Sunday, February 19 to Sunday, February 26 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

For more information, contact Robin Armour 667-3434 or Jo-Anne, (at the Museum) 667-2709.



CLEANING LANTERN SLIDES

Off the Yahoo Magic Lantern Network

I have a number of real photographic lantern slides that have mould growth underneath the cover glass and on the emulsion to varying degrees. I realize the emulsion side may not be easily treated but if I disbind the slides I can obviously clean the opposing cover glass.

I am somewhat reluctant to destroy bindings that have remained intact for over 90-100 years to do this, especially when the binding have inscriptions. I would also like to make scans of some slides and this would probably be best done while they are disbound, so that masks can be removed to reveal the full original image.

I wonder how other list members have tackled this problem Do you ever remove bindings and if so what do you rebind with, old paper binding strips or some modern alternative? I have managed to find a box of approximately 200 unused early 20th century black binding strips that I am wondering about using. What solutions do you use for cleaning? I use methylated spirits for the outer sides of the glass mainly. How can mould regrowth be prevented? All suggestions are welcome.

Cheers!

Contact Marcel at msafier@ozemai.com

Ed. Note - Interesting subject for all our members. Can you submit some ideas to the editors to be included in the next Gazette.

AN EXPERIENCE WITH SAM

By Bob Bishop,
The Old Projectionist

Some 15 or 20 years ago The Last Magic Lantern Show was appearing at either The Mayor's Festival in Seattle, Washington, or its replacement, The Bumbershoot Festival. The venue was located at the new theater built on the northwest area of the Seattle Center grounds, a place supposedly reserved for future senior citizen activity.

There was a full house, not necessarily for the magic lantern program, but because there were a number of programs on the bill. Singers, musicians, and a Mark Twain impersonator were appearing. It was a small variety show. The person doing Mark Twain, i.e. Samuel Clemens, was very good, not in resemblance, but in mannerisms. He had the voice for the part and walked off the stage to tumultuous applause. When he entered the wings he strode by me and nodded his head.

In an instant my plans for the preamble of my own gig were changed. I walked out into the lights in an uncertain manner finally ending up at the little table where a number of props were in place including my Old London lantern. I bumbled about, started to speak several times and gave the impression I did not know how to proceed.

Finally I turned my back to the audience, took a bottle of "paraffin oil" off the London lantern, took a swig out of the flask and with renewed determination faced the audience, "Do you know whom I just saw back stage? It was Mark Twain. He nodded at me!" The audience laughed at my apparent naivete. Seemingly abashed, I replied, "Well, you do not doubt for a minute that I am the Old Projectionist, so if that person wishes to call himself Mark Twain he has a perfect right to do so. Now he looks like Mark Twain, has Twain's stage presence and bearing, Twain's humor and wit. Certainly he reminds all of us of Mark Twain. Why he even said, 'The warmest winter I ever experienced was a summer on the Puget Sound.' We all know Twain said that same line about a number of places where he had lectured. You may doubt he is Mark Twain. I accept him for what he seems to be."

Never in my wildest dreams did I hope to be on the same bill as Mark Twain. This man who has entertained the crown heads of Europe. Oh my, what a magic lanternist he would have made.

I then returned to the prop table where the London lantern was and prepared to begin my patter. The largest running slide was picked up and held to the audience. It was almost two feet long and about six or seven inches wide. A brilliantly colored image from long ago. I rubbed the large slide with a red handkerchief, apparently concentrating on the slide. I spit upon one side and rubbed on it with my red bandana. Again the audience laughed.

I appeared not to notice the applause and turned the other side of the slide to the audience and again spit on the surface of the slide. Laughter again. But in the meantime, although I was concerned about my own program, I was thinking about Twain.

During all this I was on "automatic control" and going through my patter. The audience was convulsed again as I told them by rote that I meant no umbrage in spitting on the slide. It was only that my old daddy had taught me early on in my apprenticeship that spit was a universal solvent capable of removing smoke, dust, dirt, and grime from the surface of slides thus making a slide clearer to project. Again laughter from the audience.

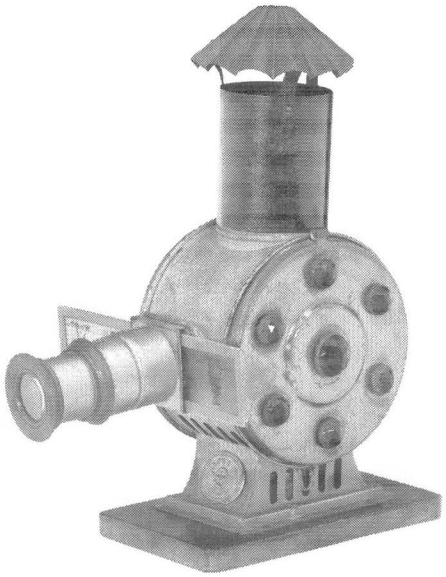
I was much more confident now that I had control of my own stage. "Now, folks, I've been thinking that Samuel Clemens, despite all his natural talents, most probably could not have been a magic lanternist because of being an atheist and being an atheist he never could see the light!" The audience groaned. I went on with my program.

Now all this foolishment comes to mind because of a single page of handwritten notes apparently by Father Taungay of the Yukon.

Mrs. Elsie Violet Britton
Elsie Violet was born on July 4th, 1879 in Mexico City, Child of Oscar Wellington Archibald (Doctor/Surgeon) and of Olivia Costello. Her teachers were French sisters. Her parents were very religious. She learned English and French besides the Spanish she picked up the friends. During her teens she learned sewing, knitting, crochet, lace, needle work, etc., besides cooking.

Toward the end of her teens she had an adventure with a young Clemens (Mark Twain). She spent some time with the Good Sheppard Sisters. Gave birth to a son left under her parents care. Her boyfriend left for India. She returned with the Sisters as "postulate." Clemens didn't come back. She heard the call of the north. She worked in a hotel in Ketchican before reaching Skagway, then spent a few years in Discovery near Atlin and from there she ....

That was the gist of the single page I have on the notes written by Father Taungay of the Yukon. Can this be the same Samuel Clemens that we know as Mark Twain?



LANTERN EXHIBIT IN NOVA SCOTIA

By Lawrence Spencer

Although I have collected Children's Magic Lanterns for over 40 years now - except for inflicting them on friends and neighbors and other unsuspecting people entering my inner sanctum - I have never put on a showing or exhibition of them for the public. Then last fall, while at one of the many older 'houses' throughout this Province (Nova Scotia) operated by the Nova Scotia Museum system, I ran into the exhibit co-coordinator for this particular house (Scott Manor House) and we agreed that my lanterns would be a great exhibit for visitors to see during the following summer season.

In the meantime I had enough opportunity to organize my collection, build a light box to show some slides, rig up one of the lanterns with a small screen for projection, and visit the exhibit people at the main museum in Halifax to get some pointers as to how best to organize and display the items. We arranged the exhibit for July 11-18 so as to cover two weekends for maximum exposure.

The museum is open from 1-4:00 p.m. and they have a tea room in one of the old drawing rooms (tea, coffee, lemonade, ice cream and fresh berries). The house (see photo) was built in 1776 (a date that is meaningful to Americans!).

Halifax itself was founded in 1749 and a fort was on the property nearby—one of a series of British forts stretching across the Province to repel and pass on messages of invasions which might be made by the French or the Americans. The fort disappeared in the late 1800s. The house was lived in until the 1980s. One of the volunteers in the tea room was born and brought up in the house.

I set up the display in and on an old glass display cabinet (see photo) they provided me. They had to empty it of their items. I had the lanterns, slides, books, information, and Society newsletters, etc. in it and rigged up one projector with a small electric light (a clear Christmas tree bulb inside) to act as the light source. It was about the same brightness as the oil lamp probably would have been. I could not light an actual oil lamp due to the fact we were in a historic building. As a screen, I cut a small cardboard carton in two diagonally, painted the inside flat black, and pasted pure white matte photo paper on the back wall to act as the screen. Even though the room was fairly well lit, this provided good enough projection for people to see the image—about 10-12 inches in diameter.

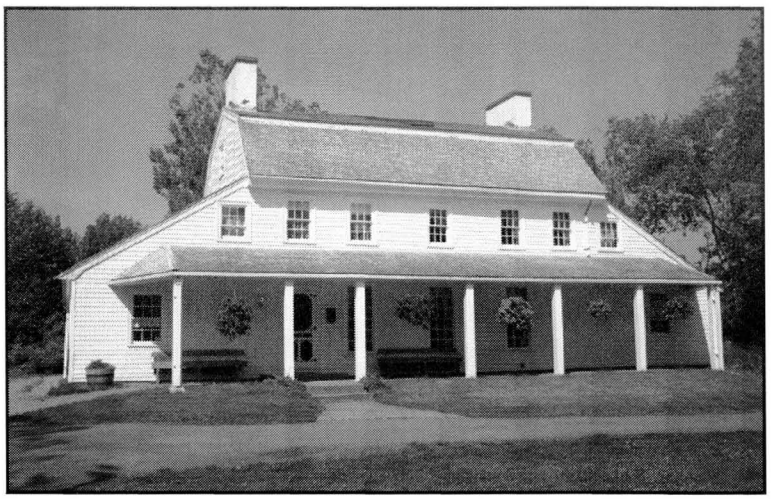
ARTS/CULTURE

Scott Manor House display tells history of "magic lanterns"

On the day I set up a reporter for the small local newspaper arrived and did an interview (see photo). The museum also put a notice on their large sign out near the main highway in the area, announcing the exhibit. Over the nine days we had about 120 visitors. I don't know whether they came for the exhibit or the tea but they almost all got cornered to look at the lanterns and slides anyway! Some of these people were my relatives and friends, whom I let know the exhibit was on. Many had not even known the museum was there, even though they lived in the area; some close by for over 30 years! So they got a double benefit—and all for free . . . except the tea!

Overall I had a great time, and it appeared that most of the others were fascinated, or at least enjoyed seeing and hearing about the lanterns. Many mentioned that they had heard about such things in the past but had never seen them, even one lady who was in her 90s. One or two read about the exhibit and came from some distance.

At least now my feet are wet and I look forward to having an opportunity of having a similar display at some other venue in the future. It is a nice feeling to share them with others, not just enjoying them on my own.



EBAY SNIPING

By Bob Doran

Wonder why you have the high bid on an eBay auction until just minutes before the auction closes and then are outbid at the last second? In the next few paragraphs I'll try to take you through the process of sniping. Sniping is considered less than honorable by many, and somewhat akin to an 1800s pistol duel in which the participants stand back to back, are instructed to walk off 10 paces, turn and fire, but one participant turns and fires at nine paces. Sniping doesn't give you quite that much of an advantage and is used by many experienced eBayers who consider themselves very honorable.

There are two ways to snipe. One is to use a stop watch and hold your bid until the last 15 to 30 seconds of the auction, with a finger quivering over the send button. Very stressful but honorable. The other is to use software to accomplish the deed. You can find many sources of sniping software by using the search function of your browser. Just enter the term "automatic bidder" or "auction sniper" and you will find many businesses eager to help you become the badest, fastest sniper on eBay. Each of these vendors will give you reams of information as to the value of sniping so I won't go into the advantages here.

I use Auction Sniper and don't believe I'll be damned for it, but who knows? I will cover only the Auction Sniper process using Windows, although there are other very suitable techniques.

First I had to sign on with the Auction Sniper folks who keep their sniper process compatible with eBay. They are located at www.auctionsniper.com.

After establishing your account with them you will be all set to start. Establishing the account is easily done by carefully following the instructions. You can decide for yourself if you want your bid entered just five seconds before the auction closes or some additional time. I use five seconds. When deciding that you want to bid on an item you need to transfer the auction number located near the upper right hand corner of the auction format to the Auction Sniper site. To do that you can just write the number down or use the "cut and paste" method. To use the "cut and paste" method just place your cursor to the right of the number, hold down a left click as you move the mouse to the left thereby highlighting the entire number. Then right click and you will see a drop down menu. Put your cursor over the highlighted "cut" and use a left click to capture the number. I then minimize the screen so I can go to my favorites, or bookmark list, and call up the Auction Sniper site.

At that point I need only go to the box requesting the number of the auction and right click to cause the drop down menu to appear and then select "paste." At this point you must determine the maximum amount you want to bid and enter it in the assigned space. Left click on the box entitled "add" and you are done.

If you are away from your computer when the auction ends, never fear, the bid will be placed unless it is lower than bids already received. There is no charge for a bid that doesn't win the auction. The fee for having Auction Sniper place the winning bid for you is: 25 cents for auctions that end at $25 or less; 1% of final price for auctions that end between $25.01 and $499.99; $5 for auctions ending at $500 or more.

So, if next we meet on eBay with both of us wanting the same item, may the best snipe win!

AN UPDATE TO 'WHAT PEOPLE ARE USING FOR SCANNING THEIR SLIDES'

By David Evans

I am now using the latest Epson Perfection 4870 Photo scanner, which does a superb job of scanning slides, even up to 9,000 dpi Optical. Haven't yet worked out how to do everything, but the scanner is ahead of even the finest painted slides. I scanned one recently to see what it could do. There was an image of a dog very small in the lower foreground—maybe about 1/2" across on the slide. I zoomed in until it filled the monitor screen and still no sign of pixellation. It would be about the equivalent of projecting the slide on to a six foot screen and walking right up to the screen to examine the dog. Seems quite promising at present.

I spoke to Martin Gilbert of Magic Lantern Shop (http://fp.sandrad.f9.co.uk/) , who tells me he uses a light box and a digital camera to photograph the slides for his site (or Sandra does, anyway!). Much quicker. She can do several hundred in a day. I guess it depends what you want to use the images for.

The scanner is available from Amazon.com at $418 for the regular version, or $600 for the PRO version. The difference, as far as I can see, lies in the software. You get Silverfast Ai 6 with the PRO and the SE version with the regular. I bought the regular version. Up to 9600 dip optical! Go to Amazon.com: Technical data: Epson Perfection 4870 PRO Scanner.

THE ABBE TAULEIGNE AND HIS MAGIC LANTERN

By David Evans

At one of the Conventions of the Magic Lantern Society of U.S. & Canada I purchased from one of the Canadian delegates (sorry, I forget your name) an odd mahogany lantern claiming the distinction of operating under Tauleigne's principle, presumably having arrived in Canada via a French immigrant.

Not a great deal is known about Abbot Tauleigne's magic lantern connections, though he was quite well-known as a scientist. I have been able to establish the following, mostly from Internet searches:

He arrived as a young newly-ordained priest at Lake Issarlès in the western Ardeche, in the Upper Loire region of France in 1899. He served at Pontigny, Yonne, for most of his life.

At the museum of Disability (Paris, France), an inscription reads: "Tauleigne, Auguste, Priest of Pontigny, photograph trichrome, radio-telegram and radio-stéréomètre."

He died on June 5, 1926 at Pontigny.

He invented a projection lantern for the diablo meetings (seances?).

He invented a patented system of three-colour monochrome photography to produce colour (the Graphostéréochrome - 1910 - apparatus to produce plates 10x15 cm utilizing the Tauleigne patent) (similar to the Ives Photochromoscope system?).

He invented a relay device for messages in Morse code (presented to l'Académie of Sciences) which was manufactured commercially.

He invented a machine to locate submarines in 1915.

He made a remarkable pocket watch for his Bishop, which recorded the Equation of Time (the varying difference between sun-dial time and mean, or clock, time) as well as having a perpetual calendar.

He invented a capable radio-stereometer to reveal lead projectiles in the bodies of First War casualties (it was sent to l'Hopital de Menton). To test his machine, he did not hesitate for a moment (according to legend) to swallow lead shot to follow, with his radio, its transit through his digestive tract. A near-fatal overdose of concentrated x-rays caused radiodermatitis of his hands. (Madame Marie Curie was also affected by x-rays.)

A passage from his intriguing biography states 'In 1923, the Carnegie Foundation of Chicago awarded him their superb Silver Medal and 5,000 Francs' for his beneficial work in the field of radiography. He did not have time to enjoy the windfall for long, as he died in 1926 from the effects of x-radiation.

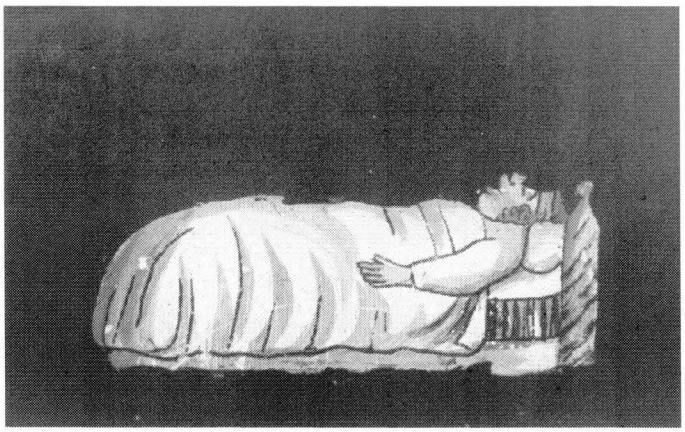
(The above from several Internet sites in French, and loosely translated by my software translation facility aided and abetted by my schoolboy French!)

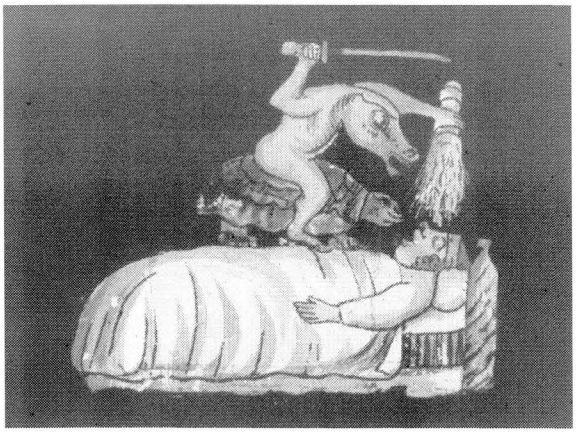
Figure 1

A mahogany, brass and tin plate lantern in my collection bears a plate (Fig. 1) stating 'Appareil de L'Abbé Tauleigne fabrique par la Maison Mazo.' The lantern is a combined slide projector and opaque image ('post-card') projector, a sort of epidiascope. It has two light sources, one in the cylindrical tin housing at the back, the other inside the box. The latter has an inclined mirror to reflect light on to the opaque object. The device at the top is a paddle type cooling fan, powered by an early (contemporary) electric motor. I estimate that the date of the lantern is probably between 1900 and 1920.

The entry relating to the House of Mazo in the Encyclopedia of the Magic Lantern indicates that Mazo's slide catalogue included "the distinctly heretical 'Diableries,'" so it is possible that either Tauleigne or Mazo was influenced by the other.

Has anyone seen a similar lantern, or know more about the redoubtable Abbot of Tauleigne's experiments with projection?





YAHOO MAGIC LANTERN INTERNET MESSAGE BOARD

By Sue Hall

1. I have two lanterns to restore for my own use, can anyone advise on bulb power/type? One has no light source, the other has been changed to a standard domestic light bulb, with the fittings and wiring from the 1930s.

Ed. Note – Please respond with answer to the Gazette editors.

2. The following query appeared on the Yahoo Magic Lantern network recently and was given a few serious answers plus David Evans remake of the old joke, How Many Does It Take To Change a Light Bulb?

Question: How many subscribers to an online message board does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer:

One to change the light bulb and one to post the fact that the light bulb has been changed.

Fourteen to share similar experiences of changing light bulbs and how the light bulb could have been changed differently.

Seven to caution about the dangers of changing light bulbs.

Twenty-seven to point out spelling/grammar errors in posts on changing light bulbs.

Forty-one to correct spelling/grammar flames.

Six to argue over whether it's "lightbulb" or "light bulb" . . .

Another six to condemn those six as anal-retentive.

Two industry professionals to inform the group that the proper term is "lamp."

Twenty-seven to post URLs where one can see example of different light bulbs.

Twelve to post to the group that they will no longer post because they cannot handle the light bulb controversy.

Four to suggest that posters request the light bulb FAQ.

Forty-four to ask what is a "FAQ."

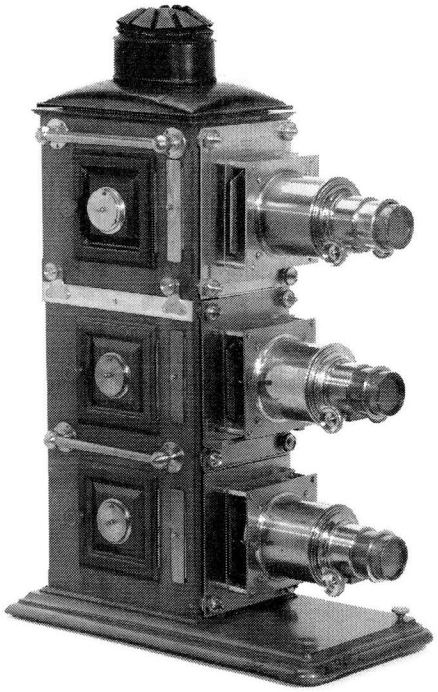
Two to post reasons why the light bulb burning out is the result of a government conspiracy.

Four to say "didn't we cover this a few months ago?"

Forty-three to say "Do a Google search on light bulbs."

Five to say "thank you."

One lurker to respond to the original post six months from now and start it all over again.



GREAT TO BE NOMINATED

From Larry Habercamp

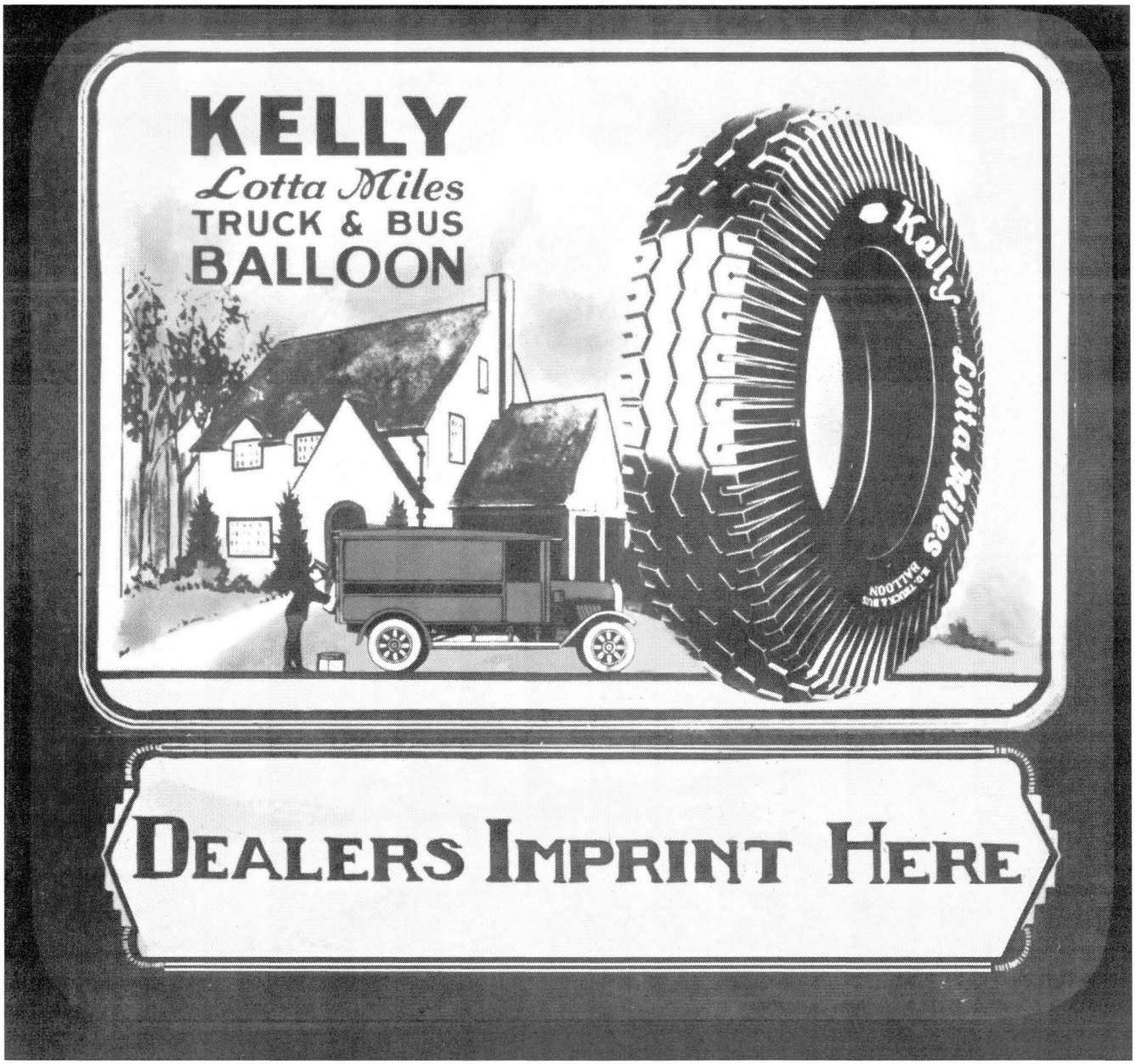
Ed. Note - Randy Habercamp was a founder of the Silent Film Society and is an active member of our Lantern Society. In fact he co-chaired, with Jere Guldin, our 2,000 convention held in Hollywood. In real life he works for the Academy of Motion Pictures Foundation Program.

From May through August, 2004 the Academy Foundation held a new screening series. The series featured Best Picture nominee, that did not win the Oscar in that category, but received the most nominations in all categories other than that year's Best Picture winner. The resulting list was an enjoyable and varied selection of some of the best films ever made. Each evening also included animated and live action short subjects, original advertising trailers, out-takes, newsreels and other surprises to recreate a night at the movies as it might have been during that particular year. The very best prints will be screened at the Academy's Samuel Goldwyn Theater, one of the finest screening facilities in the world. "Other surprises" included coming attraction slides if available. For more information, please call 310-247-3000 x111 or see our website at www.oscars.org on future activities.

BITS AND PIECES

1. Check out s-herbert@easynet.co.uk for magic lantern related books for sale, and books on early cinema.

2. In Julia Roberts' new film, "Mona Lisa Smile," there is extensive use of a magic lantern and slides. Julia is an art history professor at Wellesly and there are several scenes of her teaching her class using slides. Film was set in 1953 and universities were still using slides extensively in many classes—art, medicine, geography, etc. Would really like to know who did the lantern sequences in this film!


KELLY
Lotta Miles
TRUCK & BUS
BALLOON
Kelly
Lotta Miles
DEALERS IMPRINT HERE

LET US FIX IT!
AUTO
REPAIRING
IS OUR
BUSINESS
Our Service Will Please You.....
Bud's Garage

TOP PERFORMANCE
Sky Chief
TEXACO
..FOR YOUR
CAR !
Your TEXACO DEALER
Levander Motor Co.